
Macintosh® FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions
And Answers

by David Lerner



THE OLD RELIABLE MAC SERVICE SHOP

 Apple Specialist

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Many thanks to my partner Dick Demenus, and fellow (or former) Tekservers James Carpino, Nick Sklavounakis, Mike Slattery, and Dan Weiss for their contributions and corrections. Special thanks to Tekserve alumnus Peter Stoller for his careful editing, suggestions and other assistance, and for that huge “Tekserve, the Old Reliable Mac Service” sign that he gave us as a parting gift a few years ago.

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Design, layout, and production by Eugene James Daly.

August 1998

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COMMAND KEY COMBINATIONS

I got the Mac because I like menus and hate using command keys. But some Mac actions require command keys. What are the common ones?

Ignore internal hard disk drive

Rebuild Desktop

Zap PRAM—System 7.X

Zap PRAM—System 6

Reset Applevision Display (v1.52 or later)

iMac hard reset (after a crash if any,
lose all unsaved work)

Software reboot (lose all unsaved work)
to restart after a crash on some Macs

⌘-option-shift-delete while booting

⌘-option (but read the question about this)

⌘-option-P-R while booting

⌘-option-shift while opening Control panel

⌘-option-A-V while booting

Use straightened paperclip in ◀ hole behind
connector access door on the right side of iMac

⌘-control-power on (the triangle button)

VIRUS ALERT

The "Autostart" worm virus is nasty and pervasive. You **NEED** to use and update Virex (or SAM/NAM)!

Disinfectant has been discontinued and is no longer sufficient.

PHONE NUMBERS FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

Who do I call...?

Tekserve (www.tekserve.com)

Apple Hardware & Software Support (www.apple.com)

Apple Loan Program (borrow money to buy a Mac)

Apple Software Updates (www.apple.com)

Apple Literature FaxBack service (www.apple.com)

J&R Computer World Mac Dept.

NovaWorks Apple VAR, on-site service

MacConnection Mail-order

MacWarehouse Mail-order

New York Macusers' Group (www.nymug.org)

212 929-3645

800-SOS-APPL (800 767-2775)

800-APPLE-LN (800 277-5356)

800 950-5382

800 510-2834

212 238-9110

212 685-2300

800 MAC-LISA (or 800-800-1111)

800 255-6227

212 473-1600 (BBS 212 220-4255)

Tekserve, New York's Old Reliable Mac Service Shop

What's Tekserve?

We are electronic engineers who use Macs to design products such as robust public access audio/video equipment, industrial controls and product simulators. When our Macs started breaking, we were shocked by the repair costs, so we learned how to fix them.

Tekserve focuses on Macintosh service, repair and upgrade, both in and out of warranty. We always give free estimates. Although we have a special emphasis on fast turnaround PowerBook repair and upgrade (frequently while you wait), we work on all Macintosh models (and clones too). We have a high success rate and reasonable prices for data recovery, and we only charge if we succeed. We stock memory, modems, drives and service parts for nearly all Macs, and we are also happy to install upgrades that you buy elsewhere.

We also stock new Macs, PowerBooks and printers at mail order prices, and we can frequently custom configure and deliver them the same day. We are open 9 to 6 weekdays, Tuesday evening until 8, and 10 to 4 on Saturdays, with free validated parking. No appointment is needed, just come on by.

Isn't one service place as good as another?

Every service shop is only as good as their last repair. What we think sets Tekserve apart is that service is our business. We sell Macs in order to keep up with the latest stuff and to satisfy customers who would rather trade-in a dead Mac than fix it (and because we must sell Macs in order to do authorized warranty service). But our focus is on service, repair and upgrade, not on selling new Macs. We think that's reflected in our shop—no receptionist, no hidden service areas, just a bunch of well-equipped workbenches and technicians (and a huge inventory of parts).

Our motto, copied from an old Walker Evans photo from the Library of Congress that we made into a postcard, is "Honest Weights, Square Dealings." And we mean it. If you are ever dissatisfied in any way with our service, please let us know and we'll make it right.

So do you really fix things, or just swap parts?

We've been humbled a little on this one. We started our business on the premise that we would always fix the broken part, not just swap it. When someone had a floppy drive that was a little out of alignment, we aligned

it. If a capacitor on an analog board was bad, we replaced it. But too many things came back with further problems and what seemed like a good policy backfired. People want their repair right now, but careful repair and testing takes time. So now we insist on swapping a bad floppy drive for a refurbished one. In many cases we do the refurbishment ourselves, but it is a long involved process, including complete disassembly of the drive, cleaning, lubrication, replacing broken parts, reassembly, alignment and testing. On analog boards, we don't just replace the broken part, we replace many failure-prone parts with new better ones, and then test.

So, yes, we actually fix things, but to get the customer in and out quickly we usually swap parts. We think it's the best of both worlds, because it allows us to stand behind all of our work with a full one-year warranty, and it reduces the need for people to use that warranty. (Our Apple warranty repairs are done with Apple Service Parts and carry a three-month Apple warranty.)

Don't most other dealers swap brand new parts?

No. Service swap parts are guaranteed (although usually only for three months) to

work the same as new ones, but Apple prohibits dealers from claiming that service parts are new. The parts are usually repaired and refurbished at Apple's depot.

Do you provide a messenger service to pick-up and deliver stuff?

We'd love to, but the messenger services say that picking up broken equipment is too risky for them, because it's hard to prove what was already broken in the unlikely event that they break something else. If you send us stuff by messenger, please attach a note telling us who, what, when and why. You'd be surprised at the mystery parcels we receive.

Do you do corporate accounts?

Our low cost structure is geared toward payment by cash, check or credit card when the repair is completed. We are happy to accept corporate credit cards, including American Express & Diners Club. If your company's structure requires that you be billed, ask to talk to David and we'll send you a credit application. It's no problem for us to bill Fortune 500 companies, governmental entities and universities who issue a written purchase order.

HOW TO AVOID COMING TO TEKSERVE IN A PANIC

- 1 Save multiple copies of critical files on multiple disks, cartridges or tapes. In short, backup constantly and religiously, especially when you are under deadline pressure. Save early and often.
- 2 Don't save the only version of an important file on a floppy disk or a removable cart (really you should never have only one copy of an important file). Make multiple copies. Don't erase your last backup to make a new one—you may be backing up a corrupted file and will need the previous backup.
- 3 At least one of your backups should be in a different location (i.e. off-site).

- 4 Install and use the latest version of your preferred anti-viral software. Disinfectant has been discontinued and is no longer sufficient—you need to use one of the commercial programs (we like Virex) and update it monthly (really).
- 5 Run the latest Apple Disk First Aid on your drives once a month or so (always backup first), and also after your computer crashes.
- 6 If you own a current version of Norton Utilities (3.53 came out in late 1997, 4.0 is expected in September 1998) be sure to install FileSaver and turn it on (but 3.53 can't handle Mac OS 8.1's Extended Format, so if you use Extended Format you MUST upgrade to 4.0).
- 7 Own the software you use, read the manuals, keep the original program disks in a safe place.
- 8 Minimize the number of gewgaws you add to your System, and never add two gewgaws with overlapping functions. (e.g. don't use SuperClock and the Apple menu bar clock, don't use Trashback and Undelete). "Screen savers" are mostly entertainment programs—by the time a color screen burns-in, it will probably be fuzzy too. To save your screen, dim the monitor or turn it off. All new monitors work with Apple's Energy Saver control panel to downshift to a dark low-power mode after a certain idle time. Some "screen savers" will interfere with that.

BEING PREPARED

Spend a little time getting ready to cope with a problem before you have one. All recent Macs come with a bootable CD-ROM with System software—if so, keep it handy. Otherwise, make a copy of the Apple Disk Tools floppy that came with your computer (or make one from the disk tools image on your most recent System software CD).

If you own a copy of Norton Disk Doctor, keep it up to date. If your hard drive is not an

original Apple drive, or you have reformatted it with some other software (Drive7, FWB Hard Disk ToolKit, CharisMac Anubis, La Cie Silverlining, etc.), keep a copy of that formatter/driver software handy, preferably on a disk that will boot your Mac.

My hard drive has trouble getting going, but it always starts after a few tries. Should I bother backing it up?

No, your data is of no importance and you can probably recreate it within a few months. After all, you have lots of paper printouts to recopy from and you're a fast typist. Sorry to be facetious, but we've had people come into Tekserve for urgent data recoveries with this story! If your computer or hard drive is doing anything unusual—squeaking, chirping, having trouble getting going, read/write errors, missing or damaged files—take it as a reminder to do a complete backup. Please!

CRISIS SITUATIONS

I turned on my computer and just see a little blinking picture of a floppy disk or a question mark.

- 1 If you have one of the many Macs with an IDE internal drive, this may be caused by an older version of Drive Setup. Get Apple's Drive Setup 1.3.1 or later and follow the instructions. The affected models are Performa and Power Mac 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5500, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6500, 6360 and Twentieth Anniversary Macintosh.
- 2 Try starting from a Disk Tools floppy disk (or the CD-ROM that came with your computer). If the floppy disk is ejected, you may have a stuck button on your mouse or trackball (or it isn't really a Disk Tools floppy and is lacking the software needed to boot your computer). With the Mac turned off, unplug the mouse or trackball and see if it now starts okay from the floppy disk or your hard disk. If so, the

mouse or trackball is the culprit.

- 3 If it starts up okay from the floppy, and you see your hard disk icon below the floppy icon, the System on your hard drive may have become damaged. If so, backup your important files, run Disk First Aid to repair any directory damage, and then restart from the System CD-ROM (or Install Me First System tools floppy disk) and reinstall the System. If that doesn't solve the problem, try a "clean System install" described in the next section.
- 4 If your hard disk drive icon doesn't show up under the CD or floppy icon, you can try running Disk First Aid. (Warning: In some instances repair programs will make things worse. This is why we say to always backup everything; so that, if a repair fails, you have another recourse. If you have any doubts or cannot afford to lose the files on your hard drive, you may want to bring your computer to Tekserve at this point. We have ways of doing repairs without taking chances.) If Disk First Aid sees your hard drive, it may be able to fix problems in the directory. If it finds things to fix, run it again to be sure that everything is really fixed. If it keeps saying it fixed the same thing each time you run it, it's lying to you.
- 5 If you own Norton Utilities or Tech Tool Pro 2, you can try them now (but please read the next question first).
- 6 If this didn't solve your problem, call us.

Can I make things worse by doing repairs with Norton Disk Doctor, MacTools, or Disk First Aid?

Unfortunately, yes. In most instances these programs are good tools that help solve problems. But "repairing" certain problems can leave you worse off than before—in some cases, even take a disk from which a professional could easily recover data to a complete loss situation. Basically, when your drive's directory is scrambled, anything that writes to the disk has the potential to do

harm. Running Norton Disk Doctor or Tech Tool Pro 2 actually writes to the directory that it's fixing, so occasionally it does damage. However, running a data recovery utility such as Data Rescue, Norton's Volume Recover or Unerase should be fine, if you copy the recovered files to a different drive. If you recover the files onto the damaged drive, you will be overwriting other data you wish to recover, compounding existing directory damage, and making things worse.

If you are well backed up you can use any repair utility with confidence. If you are not backed up and your data is essential to you, consider getting professional help. We're not trying to scare you into always hiring us—we're trying to scare you into always making lots of backups!

My keyboard doesn't work, and I get little beeps when I press a key.

You have probably accidentally enabled Easy Access, a special Apple control panel to help handicapped people use the Mac keyboard. Open the Easy Access control panel and turn off each of its features.

I turn on my computer and hear a series of musical notes (or what sounds like a car crash), or I get a picture of an unhappy Mac on the screen with some numbers under it.

This can happen if you have certain older CD-ROMs in your drive when you boot, so first try removing any CD-ROMs. If that doesn't cure it, read on:

Every time you start your Mac it does some diagnostics on itself. With these symptoms, the Mac is telling you that those diagnostics failed.

- 1 Turn everything off, and disconnect any external SCSI devices. These are things such as scanners, hard drives and external CD-ROM drives. Just unplug the cable plugged into the SCSI connector (with the diamond symbol) on the back of your Mac.

On desktop and tower Macs you have to unscrew the two thumbscrews first. (If there is nothing plugged in there, skip this step.) Now that your external SCSI chain is disconnected, start the Mac and see if the problem was caused by those external devices.

- 2 Zap the PRAM. This is special parameter memory that stores crucial startup settings for your Mac and can become corrupted. Zapping it means resetting it to the original defaults. On newer Macs, hold down **⌘-option-P-R** while turning on the Mac. Keep holding those keys down until you hear the startup bong two or three times. (On the PowerBook 190, 1400, 2300, 2400, 3400 and 5300, when you have successfully zapped the PRAM the screen may be blank and the green sleep LED may be steadily lit, and you will need to then press the reset button on the rear of the computer.) If this didn't help or didn't work, continue with the next step.
- 3 Restart holding down **⌘-shift-option-delete**. You have to hold down all four buttons together, and then, while keeping those buttons down, turn on the computer. This tells the computer to ignore the normal startup drive. If instead of getting the sad tones or sad Mac you now get a blinking picture of a floppy disk, then your disk driver (or the System file) is probably corrupted. The disk driver is special information on your hard drive that tells the Mac how to talk to the hard drive.

We're getting into dangerous territory if you aren't backed up. If you are backed up, or not concerned about anything on your hard drive, try restarting from a System CD-ROM or Disk Tools floppy while holding down those four buttons. If that works, run Apple Drive Setup and select "Update driver" from the Functions selection. Warning: Don't click "Initialize," that will wipe out everything on your drive. If you have used a driver-level

compression program such as eDisk, Times Two or Stacker, even updating the driver can wipe out your drive.

If Apple Drive Setup says that “drive selection failed” or “not supported,” see the next big section further on about formatting software.

- 4 If you recently added RAM to the computer, you may want to try removing it (if you are comfortable doing this and have the right anti-static equipment).
- 5 If you still get the sad Mac tones, your problems are more serious—either memory, the motherboard, the hard drive, or an add-on such as an accelerator, nuBus or PCI card. At this point if you still have trouble, you should probably bring the computer in for service.

I pushed the Power-on button on the keyboard, but my Mac won't start up.

If you have an original Macintosh, SE, LC, 605, 610, 660, 6100, or one of several other similar models, this is normal. Use the on/off switch on the back or front of the computer. On the Color Classic, MacTV and some Performas, you must turn on the switch on the back and then push the keyboard Power-on button.

If you have a 550, 575, 580, 5200, 5300, 6200, 6300 or another similar model, it is possibly just a dead square alkaline battery which is plugged into the motherboard and attached with Velcro.

If you have a Mac II, IIx or IIfx, there are lithium batteries on the logic board (under the drive bracket) which are used by the power-on circuit. After three to six years they die. On later models they are user replaceable, but on older models the batteries are soldered to the logic board.

On the Mac IIcx and IIci, not turning on can be due to a failure in the power supply. There is a workaround that's usually effective: unplug the computer for five minutes, then plug it back in. If you want to institutionalize

this workaround instead of fixing the computer, plug the computer into a switched outlet strip and turn that off after you turn off the computer.

My computer makes the normal bong, and the green light on the monitor comes on, but there is no picture.

This can be caused by a dead lithium battery on the motherboard of a Mac LC, Centris, Quadra or Performa 475, 605, 610, 660 or 61XX.

My Apple Color Plus Display is completely dead, and the green light doesn't come on.

This can be caused by a defective component soldered to the monitor's circuit board. We can probably repair it for about \$75. More serious problems with 14 & 15 inch monitors usually cost \$175 to fix (and that may be more than they're worth).

My Mac Plus, SE or Classic smells funny, or has a single white line down the screen, or keeps turning off and bonging back on as I work on it.



These are all different failures of the “analog board” (the board with the Mac's power supply and video circuitry) which occur with age and heat. We can fix it (but your computer is probably ten years old, so it might be time to buy a new one).

My mouse or trackball is acting weird.

Shut down the computer, remove the bottom cover of the mouse (or the twist ring on the trackball), clean the rollers with a Q-tip and just a drop of alcohol. That black ring around the center of the rollers is not a special friction coating—it's congealed dirt and junk. On a PowerBook, here's the key thing: after cleaning, be certain that the little blue rollers are perfectly centered on their steel shafts. If they rub against one of the black walls on either side, the trackball won't move well in that direction. You can nudge the rollers

sideways with your finger or a small implement. Be gentle.

My desktop Power Macintosh 5200, 5300 or Performa 5200, 5215, 5300, 6200, 6205, 6214, 6216, 6218, 6220, 6230, 6290, 6300 freezes several times a day, the mouse doesn't move and the menu bar clock stops. I have to reboot to use it again.

Apple has discovered problems with certain components in these models that can cause freezing, and if your Mac has those specific component flaws, there is a free Apple Repair Extension program to fix it. Freezing can also be caused by software problems on perfectly functioning hardware, so there is a diagnostic program called "5xxx/6xxx tester" available from the usual sources. Some 52xx or 53xx models may also suffer from sudden or intermittent changes in color hue. The specific repairs covered under this program are free. If your Mac has a little label on the back that says  REA or  VID, you've already gotten these repairs.

My mouse and keyboard stopped working.

Turn off the computer, and try plugging only the mouse into the back of the computer and restarting. If it works, your computer itself is okay, but there is probably a bad connection in the ADB jack in your keyboard. If it doesn't work, and particularly on Mac SE and Mac II computers, there may be a blown ADB fuse on the motherboard. This usually occurs when you plug in a mouse or keyboard while the computer is on. Don't do that!

A disk is stuck in my Mac.

Don't pull it out with pliers, that may destroy the floppy drive. Try ejecting it by pushing a straightened paper clip into the little hole alongside the floppy drive. You may have to push fairly hard on the paper clip. If that doesn't work, the Mac probably needs to be disassembled to get the disk out, and the drive may already be damaged.


My computer starts normally, but then the cursor freezes in the upper left corner of the screen when the Finder loads.


This can be a bad mouse connection (see previous question), or a software problem (try starting from the CD that came with the Mac), or a problem with a SCSI device (with the power off, disconnect all external SCSI devices), or a flaky Apple Desktop Mouse II with a serial number beginning with "LC." Not all mice with that number are bad, but a few can cause this problem. Try another mouse.

My trackpad is jumping around.

Brushing a second finger against the trackpad can cause this, but trackpads respond to the capacitance of your finger and are affected by moisture. Try washing and drying your hands. Apple has a "Trackpad Climate Control" extension that may help, and there are plastic overlays to reduce the sensitivity of the trackpad.

My Mac froze up. Now what?

First check for simple stuff, like the mouse connector came loose from the keyboard. If it's not that, you've probably lost all your work since you last saved. If that's okay with you, restart with the power switch or the reset button or press these three buttons together: -control-Power-on (some Macs are without a reset button).

If you have unsaved work, there is a very slim chance of rescuing it. -option-escape will let you quit the current program (the one that froze) and you might be able to get to any other programs and save your work in them before quitting and restarting. But you will lose what you've done in the current program. When you restart, move the "rescued items" folder out of the trash (if there is one). It might contain temporary files used by your crashed program, and your unsaved work might be partly there.

I just spilled beer/tea/cough syrup on my keyboard (well, my cat threw up on it).

Shut down, unplug the keyboard from the computer, and turn it upside down. Wait a day or few for it to dry. It may be all okay now. If not, bring it for service. (Byte columnist Jerry Pournelle says just take it in the shower with you and rinse it thoroughly and then dry it for a few days, but he's also in favor of Star Wars missile defenses.) If it's a PowerBook, remove the battery and the power cord and bring it in for service immediately. Don't turn it on! The internal backup battery can cause electrolytic corrosion and lead to an expensive motherboard replacement.

FORMATTING HARD DISK DRIVES, CARTRIDGES & DEFRAGMENTING

SCSI Probe and some formatting programs don't see the drive in my Power Mac/Performa/LC/Quadra 63X, 5xxx, 6xxx, 4400, G3, PowerBook G3, 150, 190, 1400, 2300, 2400, 3400, 3500, or 5300 series, now what?

The internal hard drive on these Macs is not a SCSI drive, it is an IDE or EIDE (enhanced integrated drive electronics, also called ATA) drive, more popular in the PC world than the Mac world. These are good drives, just different. Use Apple's Drive Setup utility to format these drives and to check for bad blocks. Recent versions of third party driver software also support IDE drives. These Macs still have SCSI ports on them for external drives (and some have room for an internal SCSI drive as well). Don't worry, Disk First Aid and Norton can still repair directories and recover files on these drives. A PowerBook Duo upgraded with a 2300 logic board can use either a SCSI or an IDE internal drive.

Should I partition my drives?

Maybe. Larger drives have larger minimum file sizes. Even if a file has just one word in it,

the larger the drive's partition, the larger the space that tiny file will occupy. For instance, on a 250 Meg drive, the smallest file will take up 4K. On a two-Gigabyte drive, the smallest file will take up 64K. Partitioning the drive reduces this minimum file size.

With Systems below 7.5, the largest partition the Mac can recognize fully is two Gigabytes. System 7.5 can handle partitions up to four Gigabytes. 7.6 goes higher. Unless you are dealing with large graphic, video or sound files, it may be a good idea to partition any drive over two Gig into several smaller partitions. Each one will show up on the Mac desktop as a separate disk icon.

Apple's old HD SC Setup software doesn't allow you to put multiple Mac partitions on drives, but Apple's newer Drive Setup can partition drives. Warning: changing partitions will wipe out all data on your drive, so make at least two backups first.

Apple's OS 8.1 (and up) allows you to reformat your drive with a new file system (Mac OS Extended Format, also called HFS plus) that solves the problem of wasted space on larger drives without partitioning. Most new Macs sold after June of 1998 will come pre-formatted with Extended Format.

MacOS Extended Format gotcha: Norton Utilities 3.51 and earlier don't recognize MacOS Extended Format and will try to "fix" the drive, rendering it unusable. (Disk First Aid 8.2, Symantec Tech Support or MicroMat's Tech Tool Pro 2 may help you recover from this). Norton Utilities 3.52 and 3.53 will recognize MacOS Extended Format volumes and will basically ignore them. Norton Utilities 4.0 should properly recognize and work with Extended Format volumes.

I'm trying to update my hard disk driver, but Apple Drive Setup or HD SC Setup says "drive selection failed" or "no suitable drive" or "unsupported drive."

Apple's formatting software is basic reliable software that works on every drive that Apple

ships in their computers. Apple doesn't manufacture hard drives, so their drives physically look like other Seagate, Quantum and IBM (yes, really) brand hard drives, but always with an Apple label on them and special code in the drive's ROM so Drive Setup can tell that they are Apple drives. There are so many types of drives out there that Apple only wants their setup software to work with drives it knows all about. (This mainly applies to SCSI drives—Drive Setup supports most non-Apple IDE drives, and versions above 1.4 support many non-Apple SCSI drives as well).

When we sell a drive at Tekserve that is not supported by Apple Drive Setup, we provide either FWB's Hard Disk ToolKit PE, CharisMac Anubis, Drive7 or LaCie's Silverlining. There are a number of other popular programs with which we have had good experiences, including recent versions of APS PowerTools.

It's always a good idea to have a floppy, zip or CD-ROM disk or with your drive's formatting software that will boot your computer (or that you can use along with a bootable CD-ROM) in case of trouble. Recent versions of FWB Hard Disk Toolkit come on a bootable CD. Apple Drive Setup is on the CD that comes with new Macs.

Here are the most popular "universal" formatting programs, their latest version as of June 1998, and any notes about them:

Silverlining (La Cie). Version 5.83

Silverlining Lite, 2.21

Hard Disk ToolKit (FWB). Version 2.52 is current. Versions prior to 2 can cause freezes with System 6 or lower without MultiFinder.

Drive7 (Casa Blanca). Version 4.2. Most willing to "take over" existing drivers. Says "ProSoft" in Get Info. Handles sleep well on 5XX PowerBooks with Power PC upgrade. No longer selling direct to end users, but available from Tekserve.

Alliance Power Tools (APS). Version 4.1.

This is a custom version of CharisMac's Anubis formatter. Version 3.x of APS Tools was a custom version of Drive 7. Anubis (CharisMac) Version 2.57
Anubis Plus (CharisMac), 3.01

What's defragmenting, and should I bother?

As files are written to your hard disk, they are usually put in the first empty space that is big enough for the whole file. If you open an old file, make some changes, and save it, it may not fit into its old space anymore, so the System automatically saves part in the old place and the rest in the next available empty space. When you open the file the next time, the System has to get those two "fragments" of the file and put them back together. Sometimes a file that you work on often can get fragmented into three or more pieces. Disk operations get slower the more fragmented files you have. Defragmenting your drive puts all the pieces back together. Defragmenting involves moving all or most of the files on your disk. You must backup before you defragment! (Norton Utilities Speed Disk 3.0 has a bug that can lose all your files while defragmenting your disk—be sure to get the 3.52 or later update (4.0 or later for Extended Format drives), and still backup before defragmenting). Copying all of your files to another drive, erasing the first drive, and copying them back will also completely defragment them. But please have an extra backup before you do this!

SCSI (SMALL COMPUTER SYSTEM INTERFACE) WOES

I just added a new hard drive/scanner/optical drive to my SCSI chain, and the computer won't boot at all, or if it does I don't see the new drive.

SCSI has some seemingly simple rules:

- 1 Each device must have a unique ID between 0 and 7. The Mac itself is always 7,

the Mac's internal SCSI hard drive is usually 0, and the Mac's internal CD-ROM is usually 3 (G3 Macs and PowerBooks use IDE CD-ROM drives instead of SCSI). A second internal hard drive or the hard drive in a Duo Dock is usually ID 1. So external devices should normally use the numbers 2, 4, 5 & 6. The order of devices doesn't have to match the ID numbers. Before adding any devices, use the free SCSI Probe control panel to quickly identify all the devices in your chain and their ID numbers. Some Macs have two SCSI buses, in which case SCSI Probe will have a tiny pop-up menu to choose them.

- 2 Always make sure all devices, including the Mac, are turned off before connecting or disconnecting anything on the chain. Failure to do so can result in serious damage to your Mac's logic board and any other SCSI device.
- 3 All devices in the SCSI chain should be turned on before you turn on the Mac, and all devices should only be turned off after you shut down the Mac.
- 4 There must be one terminator at each end of the chain. Normally the hard drive inside the Mac (or on the 900/950 and a few others, the hard drive cable) is terminated, so that's one end. The only other terminator should be on the very last device on the chain. For long chains with many devices it is sometimes necessary to break the rules and put a third terminator in the middle. A \$59 voodoo marketing terminator is in most cases no better than a \$29 active terminator. Both are much better than a \$12 passive terminator. Always use an active terminator with Power Macs and Quadras.
- 5 SCSI cable quality matters, and it is best to use all matching SCSI cables. Thin SCSI cables can cause trouble, thick SCSI cables are better. The technical concepts are: the wire should be 26 AWG, not thinner 28 or 30 AWG. All the wires should be in pairs

(18 pairs total), fairly tightly twisted. There should be a heavy foil shield with a braided wire shield around it (double-shielded). There are even rules about where certain pairs should be within the cable. Apple, FWB, APS, Granite and Tekserve SCSI cables meet these rules. Many other cables, particularly older ones, don't.

- 6 The entire SCSI chain, including the computer, should be no more than 18 feet long. Each device has up to a foot of cable within it, and that counts. Use the shortest cables that are practical. We stock them in lengths of 1, 2, 3 and 6 foot. Avoid the six-foot cables if you can.

If you've followed all the rules above, verified your connections and terminator, used SCSI Probe to check IDs (sometimes the switch on the drive is mislabeled), and it still doesn't work, you're in SCSI voodoo land. First try connecting only the new device directly to the Mac to be sure that both are okay. Then try anything—swap the location of two devices, swap two SCSI cables, use a longer or shorter cable, swap the two SCSI ports on the back of the drive, replace the passive terminator on the end with an active terminator, add an active terminator in the middle of the chain, and so on. A few Power Macs have a bug that can cause trouble with SCSI ID 5; System 7.5.3 and above fix that problem.

What's SCSI-2, Fast SCSI, SCSI-3 and Ultra2 SCSI?

SCSI-2 is a protocol for communications, but it also refers to a new type of high-density 50-pin connector sometimes used instead of the more common "Centronics" 50-pin connector. We stock SCSI-2 cables at Tekserve, including PowerBook to SCSI-2 cables.

SCSI-2 "Fast" means that the drive supports new software protocols that allow it to work faster with computers (such as AV Macs and Power Macs) that also support the

new standard. All currently manufactured SCSI drives are “Fast” or “Ultra.” Apple’s SCSI Manager 4.3 extension that comes with System 7.5 gives many older Macs some of these SCSI-2 features (and can sometimes introduce new problems on older Macs). In System 7.5.3 and up, this extension is built-in to the System file.

SCSI-2 “wide” means the data bus is 16 bits wide instead of 8 bits wide. Twice as wide should move twice as much data in the same time. Wide drives are recommended for audio and video applications. You must add a wide SCSI card to your Mac in order to take advantage of a wide drive. Wide drives use high-density 68-pin connectors.

SCSI differential means that each data signal is on a balanced pair of wires, one going negative when the other goes positive. This increases immunity to interference and allows very long SCSI cables (up to 50 feet), but requires special drives and special cards.

SCSI-3 and Ultra SCSI are new marketing terms that refer to various newly agreed SCSI protocols. Yes, they are potentially faster, but you usually need an accelerated SCSI card to take advantage of their speed.

Ultra2 SCSI is the latest standard, and it uses new LVD (low-voltage differential) SCSI cards, drives and cables. Again, the differential part means that you can have very long SCSI chains. Most Ultra2 SCSI drives automatically switch to Ultra SCSI (unbalanced) connections if you connect them to a regular SCSI bus. Although LVD uses standard 68-pin wide SCSI connectors, it requires different terminators and special cables built to more rigid standards.

I just added a new CD-ROM to my SCSI chain, and it doesn’t work.

You need to install “driver” software in your Mac’s System folder in order to use a CD-ROM. Apple brand CD-ROM drives use the Apple CD-ROM (or CD/DVD-ROM) extension, along with a bunch of other

extensions needed to deal with audio CDs and odd types of data CDs (Those extra files are Foreign File Access, Apple Photo Access, Audio CD Access, High Sierra File Access, ISO 9660 File Access and on newer Macs, UDF Access). Most versions of “Apple CD-ROM” only support Apple brand drives, so if you have a non-Apple drive, a third-party program like FWB’s CD-ROM ToolKit or Anubis CD-ROM should come with your drive. Having both Apple’s driver and a third-party driver occasionally causes trouble, so remove the one you don’t need.

THE SYSTEM

What’s the big deal about the System folder?

System software is what makes your Mac smile when you turn it on, allows it to run, read and write floppies and hard drives, copy files, run other programs, and all sorts of other goodies (too many of them these days). The Finder is part of the System software and is usually the program that runs first when the computer starts up. The System software lives in a folder that is usually named “System Folder” and which contains the critical files “System” and “Finder” as well as many related files. In System 7 and above, these related files are mostly in folders in the System Folder, such as “Extensions,” “Control Panels,” “Preferences” and with System 7.1 and up, “Fonts.”

If everyone just used the System Folder the way it comes from Apple, there would be many fewer crashes, bombs and conflicts. But many programs add files or even folders to the System Folder, and most of us have added various system enhancements (“screen savers” that are really eyewash, anti-virus programs, security programs, font management programs such as Suitcase, FileSaver and so on).

What System should I use?

If you have any PowerPC with at least 32 Megs of RAM, we suggest that you use System 8.1 (with less RAM, use System 7.6.1). Both of these Systems are more stable and reliable than previous systems. System 8.5 is expected in October 1998 with faster overall performance, improved Find functions and other enhancements. On older Macs, if your System is stable and happy and you don't need any new features, stick with it.

I have a 68040 Mac—should I upgrade to System 7.6 or OS 8?

If you have at least 32 Meg of real RAM, it can't hurt, but it isn't essential.

I have an even older Mac, like an SE, LC, LC II, LC III, Mac II/IIx/IIci/IIcx— should I upgrade to System 7.6?

No, we suggest sticking to the oldest System that supports the features and software you need. Either System 6.08 or System 7.0 should be fine. System 7.5 will run on those systems but uses up a lot of RAM. 7.6 & OS8 are not supported on most of the earliest Macs.

What's a clean System install and how do I do it?

As a System folder grows top heavy with extra stuff, your System can become less stable. Sometimes parts of the System files get damaged or corrupted and you don't know exactly which ones are damaged. Many times Apple, software vendors, or Tekserve will insist that any problem you are having with your computer is due to all the junk in your System folder, and will suggest that you do "a clean System install." That means making a brand new System folder just like Apple would put on a new computer. This new folder will be lacking all your added fonts, custom doodads and preferences, including your internet access setup, so after you solve your problem you'll need to "dirty" the new System

folder again and hope that your problem stays gone (which is why some people first try a much simpler dirty install, which basically means deleting only your Finder, System and Finder Prefs file and then running the System installer).

- 1 With System 7.6 and up, use the "options" button in the main installer window to bring up the choice of a clean install. With System 7.5, when you get to the install dialog, press ⌘-shift-K, and in the box that comes up click "clean System install." Your old System Folder will be renamed "Previous System Folder" and the new one will be called just "System Folder."
- 2 With Systems below 7.5 (or above if your System file is damaged), it is a little more complicated. We suggest that you take the Finder out of your System Folder (put it on the desktop) and then rename the System folder "Old System Folder." Then restart your computer. You should get a blinking disk or question mark icon, because there is no System folder on the disk. If it starts up anyway, you have an extra System folder on your disk, and you need to find it (use the Find command and look for "Finder"—any folder with a System and a Finder in it is a System Folder, no matter what the folder is actually named). You need to "unbless" that folder too by moving the Finder somewhere else, like into the Trash. Restart again to be sure all System folders are gone. Remember that you want it to fail to boot, to prove that you have eliminated all old System Folders.
- 3 Now restart the computer with the Install Me First disk from your System software, and do an "Easy Install." (If you have an Apple brand CD-ROM drive you can usually boot from the Apple System CD-ROM that came with your computer. The System 7.5.3 and later upgrade CD-ROMs are bootable, but the earlier System 7.5 upgrade CD-ROMs are not bootable—they came with a bootable floppy disk with the

CD-ROM software on it, so you insert that floppy, boot from it, and then insert the CD-ROM and run the installer.

- 4 Now restart and thoroughly test to see if your problems are solved.
- 5 If everything is okay, you can start dirtying your new System with all your old fonts, preferences, control panels and extensions. It is always better to reinstall stuff like fax software from the original floppy disks rather than using the old versions. However, you will want to move over any fax folders and preferences, which contain your address books, old faxes and so on. You'll also want to move folders such as "Claris" and "Aldus" that various programs may have placed in your System Folder.

We suggest doing this very slowly—move a few items, restart and see if things are okay, move a few more, and so on. This is a great time to do housecleaning—anything you don't need or don't recognize can be moved into a holding folder until you are sure you don't need it. The point is that anything that was freshly installed by the System install should not be replaced—only move unique stuff that you know you need from the old System Folder to the new one. Remember that less is more. More speed, more reliability, more peace of mind.

BOMBS AND CRASHES

My computer bombs whenever I launch my MajorSoft WorksWellEnough program.

If your problems only occur with one particular program or action, and are fairly repeatable, they should be easy to fix.

- 1 Try giving the program more memory. Be sure the program is not running, then, click once on the icon of the program and press \mathbb{I} -I (Get Info). Increase the "preferred" memory size by 25-100% and try the program again.

- 2 Try starting without extensions. The vendor will tell you to do this, so try it first. Under System 7 and up, just hold down the shift key while the Mac starts up. It should say "Welcome to Macintosh (or MacOS), Extensions disabled." If you are running System 6, you must manually remove System Extensions and Control Panels from the System folder by dragging them to another folder—holding down shift won't do it. If the problem is gone, see the next major question below.
- 3 Quit the program, delete any preferences files used by the program (if they are complicated preferences, copy them to another folder or a floppy disk in case they prove not to be the problem and you want to restore them). The preferences file is usually in the Preferences folder in the System folder, but it could be somewhere else, such as in the folder with the program (or in the "Claris" or "Aldus" or "your software brand name here" folder). Then reinstall the program from the original floppy disks.
- 4 Many problems can be traced to corrupted, damaged or compressed fonts. Under System 7.1 or greater, remove the Fonts Folder from your System Folder (if you are using Suitcase or MasterJuggler, also use it to close all your fonts), restart the computer, and see if the problem is solved. If so, you need to work your way through your fonts and see which one is the culprit. Older versions of Suitcase came with a utility called Font & Sound Valet to compress, or "pack," fonts. Fonts thus compressed don't work well with System 7 and up, so use the latest version of the same program to "unpack" them.
- 5 If these steps don't solve the problem, contact the company that publishes the program. Many vendors offer good free tech support, and sometimes you will have a standard problem that they can quickly identify and tell you how to fix. Many

vendors also have support forums online. This is especially useful for those vendors that charge for telephone tech support, as their online support is still free. You also get the benefit of the input from other users, who may have encountered the same problems and have workarounds you can use until the vendor fixes the bug. Some companies also have decent support on their web site.

My computer bombs whenever I turn it on.

Many bombs can be traced to extensions and control panels that modify system behavior (and sometimes each other's behavior). Under System 7 and up, holding down the shift key while booting will disable all of them. If that solves the problem, use Extensions Manager (included in System 7.5 and up or freeware for use with earlier Systems) to disable specific control panels and extensions. The usual suggestion is to try turning off half your extensions, and if the problem doesn't go away try the other half. When you find the half that cause the problem, disable half of those, and so on until you isolate the problem.

There are commercial programs like Conflict Catcher and Now Startup Manager that automate extension troubleshooting, but they can introduce their own problems.

If disabling extensions doesn't solve the problem, it may be a hardware or a System problem. Try booting from a Disk Tools floppy or CD. If that solves things, try a clean System install.

My Power Mac is less stable since I installed Microsoft Office 4.2x, or it crashes when I shut down.

You need to use Microsoft Office 4.2.1 or later, and you may need the extension "Office 4.2x Update For Power Mac," version 1.0.1, and version 4.2.1c of the Microsoft Office Manager control panel. The updates came

with Word 6.01. For stability, we prefer to leave out all versions of the Microsoft Office Manager control panel—the features it provides are pretty minor compared to the trouble it can cause. We actually like the newer Microsoft Office 98 and suggest that you upgrade, but be aware that it only runs on PowerPC Macs, not on older 680X0 Macs.

All my icons are generic with folded corners. Where are all the regular icons?

Your hidden "Desktop" files are damaged or corrupted. See the next question.

I double-clicked on a file and the computer said, "the application that created it cannot be found." Will rebuilding the desktop help?

The invisible "Desktop" file(s) keep track of which applications are used to open which files. If that gets corrupted, these problems occur, and the answer is to rebuild the desktop. A few common extensions, such as ATM (Adobe Type Manager) can interfere with rebuilding the desktop, so this requires fast work. Startup your Mac while holding down the shift key. As soon as you see the message "Extensions Disabled," let go of the shift key and press ⌘-option. When you see a message saying "Are you sure you want to rebuild the desktop," say yes.

This is more complicated with System 7.5, because Macintosh Easy Open needs to be enabled when you rebuild the desktop, but everything else needs to be disabled. Use the Extensions Manager control panel to turn off all extensions and control panels, then turn on only Macintosh Easy Open (and AutoDoubler or SpaceSaver if you use them). Then restart the computer holding ⌘-option and click "OK" when it asks about rebuilding the desktop. Then go back to Extensions Manager and turn your usual set of extensions back on.

MEMORY AND VRAM

My Mac has oodles of RAM installed, but one program gives me “out of memory” error messages. What’s wrong?

See the next question and answer.

I get out of memory errors in a certain program, even though I just added more memory to my computer. How do I get the program to know about the extra memory?

When you launch a program, it asks the system only for the amount of RAM set as its “Preferred Size.” You need to set the program in question to ask for more RAM. To do this, quit the program, and highlight the program icon. Then select “Get Info” from the File menu or type **⌘-I**. At the bottom of the Info window you should see a section called “Memory Requirements.” (With OS 8.5, select “Show: Memory” from the pop up first.) Then increase the “Preferred Size” by 50 or 100%. If it says 4096, try 8000 (or 8192 if you like base2).

Before increasing a program’s preferred memory setting, it’s a good idea to check “About this Mac” or “About this Computer” under the Apple menu in the Finder to check how much “built-in” memory you have. This will also show you how much memory is being used by MacOS and other programs that are running. Don’t set a single program to use more memory than is available, and if you want to be able to run several programs at one time, be sure that the preferred memory of all the programs you will run simultaneously, plus the memory used by MacOS, is a little less than the total built-in memory.

What’s composite memory and does it matter?

Composite memory is manufactured with more smaller chips and some “glue” logic to equal fewer larger chips. Normal non-

composite SIMMs have eight identical chips on them (normal 8 & 32 Meg SIMMs are “double-sided” and have eight identical chips on each side). Extra chips draw more current, load the bus differently, and may have timing and other problems. Apple doesn’t support them.

What’s 4K refresh and 2K refresh?

This has to do with the inner workings of the chips and how the data stored in them is constantly “refreshed” (that’s the “dynamic” part of dynamic random access memory or DRAMs). This became an issue with 840avs and Power Macs. We’ve found that 2K refresh always works with Macs, and that 4K refresh sometimes doesn’t. 4K refresh chips are usually cheaper.

Suddenly my System is using up 15 Meg of RAM. What happened?

With OS8 and lots of doodads, a 10 or 15 Meg RAM footprint for the System is normal. On older Macs, this usually means that you need to turn 32-bit addressing back on in the Memory control panel and restart the computer. If you don’t see that choice in the Memory control panel, you may have a Mac II, IIX, ILCX or SE/30. If so, you need to install a free extension called MODE32 version 7.5 and turn it on, then go to the Memory control panel and turn on 32-bit addressing. Power Macs always use 32-bit addressing, so this may point to an excessive disk cache setting in the Memory control panel. On newer Macs, you may have set a large disk cache or RAM disk in that same control panel.

I just put more RAM in my Power Mac 8100, and now when I turn it on it says “the built-in memory test has detected an error.”

Apple put “too good” a memory test into these 8100s. Usually memory will pass all other tests and work just fine even though this message appears every time you boot.

The message is so annoying that we won't sell memory that causes this message, but Apple says not to worry about it. 2K refresh SIMMs rarely produce this message, 4K ones do.

What speed memory do I need for my particular Mac, and how much can I add? Should I add it in pairs?

This has become so complicated that we suggest you call us or use one of the references posted online (Apple's Memory Guide or NewerTech's "GURU"). Before calling, please check your exact Macintosh model and also write down the memory information shown in "About this Macintosh" or "About this Computer" under the Apple menu.

I just put new memory in my PowerBook 1400, and now when I turn it on it says "the built-in memory test has detected an error."

Some early memory upgrades for these computers cause this problem, particularly if they are stacked. If more recent modules still cause the problem, we can replace the factory installed 4 or 8 Meg module under warranty to solve it.

My PowerBook 190, 5300 or 3400 sometimes loses the extra memory I installed.

In these PowerBooks it is possible for the memory module to work loose. When we install RAM at Tekserve we install a thin strip of foam to hold it in place. Apple now has official foam strips for this purpose and instructs that they be put on the back of the keyboard. Be certain that you don't have foam on both the keyboard and the RAM. Later production 3400s come with the foam in place already.

What's the cache in the memory control panel and how big should it be?

The computer uses a little bit of memory to

save things it guesses you will soon need to get from the hard drive. It's faster to get it from memory than from the hard drive. With System 7.5.3 and up click the "Use Defaults" button in the memory control panel and let Apple set the cache size (that may also turn on virtual memory, which you'll probably want to turn back off). With System 7.5 and down, Set the cache to 128K or 256K and leave it alone. When using Photoshop, Adobe recommends setting the cache to its lowest setting. On a Mac IIsi (and only a Mac IIsi) you might get a little snappier performance by setting the cache to 768K because of the way that Mac uses video memory.

What's a level 2 cache and do I need one?

Just like the disk cache which saves frequently needed items in RAM to avoid having to get them from the slower hard disk, a level 2 cache saves frequently needed items in special super-fast cache RAM to avoid getting them from slower RAM or the hard drive. G3 processors have the level 2 cache tightly integrated with the processor. Older PowerPCs become about 15% faster and feel more responsive with a level 2 cache. Power Mac 7500s are finicky and we recommend only using Apple brand level 2 cache in 7500s. If you upgrade a 7500-9600 series Mac with a G3 processor, your old level 2 cache becomes a level 3 cache, and if it's less than 512k may actually slow things down.

What's virtual memory and how much should I have?

Virtual memory uses some clever programming and some hard drive space to simulate more RAM than you really have. It's main virtue is that it's free, and that PowerPC programs load a little faster and require a little less memory when virtual memory is on. The downside is that it's slower than real RAM, uses up hard drive space and shortens battery run time on PowerBooks. We prefer adding real RAM and turning off virtual

memory. However, if you need to have three or four programs open at once so you can jump between them, virtual memory is okay. You'll get no benefit if you try to use virtual memory to give one program more RAM than you actually have physically installed, and your computer will slow dramatically. Photoshop is always faster with virtual memory turned off.

What about RamDoubler from Connectix?

RamDoubler works sort of like virtual memory, but it's more clever (borrowing free RAM from all over), so it is also faster. On a Mac with less than 12 Meg of RAM, RamDoubler will have to use the hard drive a lot and will slow down quite a bit, so we don't recommend it. If you have at least sixteen Meg of real RAM, RamDoubler won't have much speed impact and will let you open more programs at the same time.

Bottom line: RAM upgrades are very affordable. You will get much better performance with more real RAM and without RamDoubler.

Will more VRAM make my Mac faster?

No, except on a Power Mac 7200 which will interleave VRAM if you add a second Meg. Some Macs, including the IIsi, IICI and 630 series, use the regular RAM (DRAM) to store information for the video display as well. Other Macs have special dedicated "VRAM" (Video RAM) or SGRAM (static graphics RAM) for this purpose. On Macs with VRAM or SGRAM, you can sometimes add more to increase the number of different colors that the computer can display. (8 bit, or 256 colors is standard, 16 bit or thousands of colors is more photo-realistic, and graphics professionals preparing color items and photos for reproduction insist on 24 bit, or millions of colors). Adding VRAM or SGRAM lets you set the Monitors control panel to more colors. In some cases this will actually slow the computer, as it must process more

information to display all those colors. You can spend a lot on a separate video card to accelerate this.

POWERBOOK SPECIFIC ITEMS

Should I get AppleCare for my PowerBook?

PowerBooks are manufactured to closer tolerances, get rougher handling than desktop computers and are expensive to fix. We think that Apple's own extended warranty program, called AppleCare, is usually a good investment for PowerBooks. Of course Apple is betting that you won't need it and that they'll come out ahead, but many of us would rather spend \$100-250 on insurance to avoid the chance of a \$400 or \$1,400 repair. At Tekserve we sell AppleCare at a discount, and if your computer needs service, any authorized service provider in the USA can fix it (or Apple will pay round-trip shipping to their depot). It doesn't cover broken plastic or physical damage from dropping or abuse. AppleCare is less expensive if you purchase it before your original warranty expires. You can only buy AppleCare on products that are less than four years old.

What's the best replacement battery for a PowerBook?

We've found that Apple's own batteries are usually better than any third-party battery. Sometimes the third-party batteries claim higher capacities, but frequently it isn't borne out in actual use. An advantage of Apple's batteries is that if your PowerBook is under warranty or covered by Applecare, so is the battery, so any Apple service shop can swap it if it does go bad.

Does a battery drain when not in use? Are new batteries fully charged?

All batteries have some "self-discharge," usually 1% to 3% per day. That means that the battery will be dead in a month or two sitting

on the shelf and will need a full charge. Brand new batteries are always shipped without much charge, and must be charged before use. The PowerBook 500 series uses “intelligent” batteries that can get dumb if left uncharged for more than a month. This means that even if you don’t use your PowerBook at all, you should plug it in for at least 24 hours every week or two so the batteries can charge. It’s okay to leave your PowerBook plugged in all the time.

Is it okay to run my PowerBook without a battery?

If you have to, but it’s not recommended. PowerBooks have an internal rechargeable backup battery that saves your PRAM settings (printer, AppleTalk, clock, etc.). If you leave a PowerBook unplugged for a week or two without a regular battery installed, that internal battery will be depleted, your settings will be lost, and you may have trouble booting the computer. The regular battery also acts as a ballast maintaining smooth voltages to run your PowerBook.

G3 Series PowerBooks are designed to run well on AC power without any battery, so you can have a CD-ROM and a floppy drive (or zip) installed at the same time. We’ve already seen several customers who grabbed their batteryless G3 PowerBook and wondered why it didn’t work on the airplane, so if you usually run with two drives and no battery, don’t forget the battery when you travel.

Should I bother about “conditioning” my batteries?

Conditioning just means running the battery all the way down and then fully recharging it. Apple ships conditioning software with the PowerBook 190, 5300 and Duo type III batteries, as well as Intelligent Battery Recondition for use with 500 series batteries. On a PowerBook 500 series with two batteries installed, you should also swap them from left to right once a month.

The lithium-ion batteries in newer PowerBooks do not need conditioning.

PowerBook 100s use lead-acid batteries and depleting them beyond a certain voltage (or storing them without a charge for more than a few months) will permanently damage them. Don’t ever condition them!

For other PowerBooks and Duos, from the 140 on up, there is some “memory effect,” which means that if you mostly use it on AC the battery won’t last very long if you suddenly try to use it. In that case conditioning the battery can help.

Why does my Duo stop working with my AppleTalk printer when I put it in the dock?

The Duo alone has only one serial port, the Printer/Modem port. But internally, it’s really the modem port. When you use Open Transport (System 7.6 and up), the AppleTalk control panel sets AppleTalk to this modem port. When you put the Duo in the Dock, you are trying to use AppleTalk on the Printer port, but it’s still set to the modem port. Switch to the Printer port in the AppleTalk control panel. You can also use Apple’s Location Manager software to automate this.

What’s resetting the Power Manager, when should I do it, and how?

The Power Manager is software in the PowerBook that works to maximize battery life. It stores some special information for itself in the PRAM, and if that information gets corrupted you may have trouble running on batteries. When you have battery problems it’s frequently a real problem with the battery or the computer, but sometimes it’s just a software problem with the Power Manager. Here’s how to reset the Power Manager on different PowerBooks:

PowerBook 100: Flip the battery switch on the back down, and then hold down both the reset and interrupt buttons (on the left side) for 15 seconds.

PowerBook 140-180c (except 150): Unplug the AC Adapter, take out the battery and leave it alone unplugged for 5 minutes. That's probably all you need for the 160-180c. On the 140, 145 and 170 (and just to be sure on the 160-180c), then use two paper clips (or one paper clip bent into a U shape) to hold in both the interrupt and reset buttons on the back for 10 seconds.

PowerBook 150: Disconnect AC adapter, remove battery, use a paper clip to press the recessed reset button on the back for 10 seconds. Then attach the AC adapter and press that recessed reset button momentarily—you will hear a small pop from the speaker. Now use the regular power button to turn on the unit. Insert the battery and charge it for at least 8 hours before trying to run on battery alone.

PowerBook Duo 200 Series: Remove power and battery, then press and hold the power/reset button on the back for 45 seconds.

PowerBook 500 Series: Press **⌘-Option-Control-Power On** all at once. If the computer is on it will go off (losing all unsaved work). If the computer is off you won't notice anything, but you have still reset the Power Manager.

PowerBook 190, 1400, 2300, 2400, 3400, G3 and 5300: Shut down the PowerBook (Shut Down, not restart). Then turn on the PowerBook and immediately press **⌘-Option-P-R**. The Mac should chime once, the screen will go dark, and the green sleep light will be on steady. Now press the reset button on the rear. You may then need to use the regular Power-on button to turn the machine on.

G3 Series PowerBooks: the key combo (shift-fn-ctrl-power-on) is printed on the back of the machine.

What's with the PowerBook 190 and 5300? Are they reliable? The plastic housing at the bottom of my display just broke, and I

know I didn't drop it or anything.

Apple discovered some design problems (we hear that they were sold a bad batch of plastic by an American conglomerate) in these models, and they have a free Repair Extension program to fix them. The problems covered include failure of the plastic housing, loose or inoperative DC power connector, system hanging when using high-power PC cards, and with 5300s only, problems dropping off of AppleTalk networks or with slower boot times when running on AC compared to booting on battery. If you have any of these problems, please backup your computer and then bring it in so that we can send it to Apple for service. PowerBooks already repaired under this program have an "AA" sticker at the end of the serial number and a date stamp on the top and bottom foil inside the battery compartment.

So is there a more reliable PowerBook model?

The PowerBook 1400, 2400c, 3400c and G3 series are very well made. The G3 Series is a very fast computer and in many cases can act as a desktop Mac replacement.

FILE SHARING

How do I use file sharing to transfer files from my PowerBook (or roommate's computer) to mine, and back again?

Connect the two Macs together. The easiest way is with a standard printer cable (Apple's M0197) between the printer port on each Mac. That's the same cable you use to connect a StyleWriter printer. (Unless you are using Open Transport, only the printer port works for AppleTalk, you can't use the modem port. Other methods are with PhoneNet, ModuNet, or Ethernet (the same cables you use to share a printer among several Macs).

You have to "share" one computer so that other computers on the network can see it. A shared computer is also sometimes called a

personal file server. Although there are many steps, you only have to do them once.

To share your computer:

- 1 In the Chooser (under the Apple menu), turn on AppleTalk. (You also may need to configure AppleTalk in either the AppleTalk control panel or the Network control panel).
- 2 In Control Panels (under the Apple menu or in the System Folder), double-click on Sharing Setup (in OS 8 and up it's called File Sharing). If you haven't entered an owner name, password, and Mac name, go ahead. My owner name is David, my Mac's name is "David's G3." Let's say my password is "Backupmoreoften". If you are on a corporate or school network, be sure to use a serious password, not "pass" or "please" or "chocolate."
- 3 Under file sharing, press the Start button. If it says Stop, then file sharing is already on, so leave it alone. Close the Sharing Setup window by clicking in the close box. Don't worry about Program Linking — you can leave it off.
- 4 Now you have to decide who can access your Mac. If you never connect to a network outside your home, it's easiest to open the Users and Groups control panel, double-click on Guest and click on "Allow guests to connect." If you are on a public or corporate network or just paranoid, while in Users and Groups go to the File menu and select New User. Name the new user and give him or her a password. If it's just you, you've already given yourself a password in File Sharing. When you are done, close the Users and Groups control panel.
- 5 Now you have to select what to share. If it's just you, or you and your loved ones, you probably want to share your entire hard drive. If you are on a network with many other Macs, you want to retain control, so you may want to make a new folder called "Shared" and only share that.

- 6 With OS 8.1 and down, click on the icon of your hard drive or the folder you want to share and highlight it. Go to the File menu and select Sharing..., then check the top box "Share this item and its contents." You can then adjust privileges for any users you created.

With OS 8.5, click on the icon of your hard drive or the folder you want to share and highlight it. Select "Get Info" from the File Menu (or press **⌘-I**), then in the Info window select "Show: Sharing" from the pop-up menu, and check the box "Share this item and its contents." You can then adjust privileges for any users you created.

- 7 That was a lot of work, but you only had to do it once. In the future you only need to use the Sharing setup control panel (or the control strip) to turn sharing on and off.

Now that you've shared a computer, you can access it from any other computer connected to the same network.

- 1 Go to one of those computers and open the Chooser under the Apple menu. On the left side should be a bunch of icons. Click on the one that says AppleShare.
- 2 On the right side you should see a window that says "Select a file server:", and if you have successfully shared and networked your computer, you'll see it listed there. Highlight the name of the shared computer and click OK.
- 3 If you took the trusting approach, click on Guest, otherwise enter a user name and password that you previously set on the other computer. Then click OK. Next you'll see a list of the shared drives or folders on the other computer (probably just one). Highlight the one you want and click OK. In a few seconds the icon of that drive or folder should appear on your desktop. You can copy files to and from it as though it was another drive on your computer (but it will be much slower).
- 4 To avoid ever having to repeat steps one to

three, click on the icon of the shared volume and select Make Alias from the File menu. Next time you want to “mount” that shared volume on your Mac, just double-click on the alias.

What if I tried to follow these instructions and didn't find the control panels or choices I expected?

You may not have installed all the file sharing items when you installed the System on your computer, or you may have used an Extensions Manager to get some of them out of the way because you didn't need them. Find your System installer disks or CD-ROM, open the installer, select “Custom Install” from the drop down menu, and install file sharing (on recent Macs, install Open Transport). Although you need System 7 or higher to enable file sharing, you can access a shared Mac from a computer running System 6—you just need to use the System 6 installer disk to install “AppleShare Client” software on the System 6 Mac.

File sharing works well, but now my Mac is very slow to start up and takes an awfully long time to shut down after I tell it to.

If file sharing is turned on, your Mac goes through an elaborate private ritual every time it boots up, checking the sharing status of every folder on your drive. When you shut down, your computer carefully unshares every folder on your drive before it will shut down. So, when you aren't using file sharing, turn it off. If you have a control strip, there is an icon for disabling file sharing. There's also an icon for AppleTalk, and if you turn off AppleTalk, file sharing will go off too (unless you are using Ethernet or AppleTalk remote access). AppleTalk uses extra battery power, so it's good to leave it off when you are “on the road” with your PowerBook.

How come it didn't work when you asked your wife to read this and follow your

instructions?

Because I use AppleTalk Remote Access on my computer, my Network (or AppleTalk) control panel was set to Remote Only instead of LocalTalk Built-in. That meant that her shared PowerBook didn't show up in my Chooser. It was very embarrassing and I started pulling cables every which way before I figured it out.

UPGRADES, ACCELERATORS AND POWER MACS

Should I stick to my old Mac, or upgrade?

If your existing Mac does what you need it to, is fast enough, and the software you use now meets your needs, stick to it, even if you are offered upgrades to newer and presumably better versions of programs. Upgrading is a spiral—if you get the latest upgrades to all your programs, you will probably find that your hard drive is too small, that you need more RAM, and that it all runs more slowly. More features usually means less speed. If your Mac isn't fast enough, or won't run software you need to be compatible with co-workers or clients, by all means get a new one, but plan on upgrading your software too.

I do graphics for a living. Is a used Quadra 650 good enough?

If you will be competing in the world at large, no. Graphics programs are some of the greediest in terms of storage, RAM and speed, and you usually need to use the latest versions in order to be compatible (once you save a file in the latest version of a program, you usually cannot go back and open that file with an older version). Get a G3 PowerPC. New G3s are frequently better values than older used Macs.

Will Speed Doubler really make my Power Mac twice as fast?

No, but Speed Doubler does noticeably

improve the speed of older “non-native” programs running on Power Macs. Be sure to update to the latest version—early versions corrupted data when copying. Version 1.1 of Speed Doubler’s Speed Copy can corrupt data with certain AppleShare client software, including System 7.5.3. For System 7.6.1, you need version 2.03 or later; for OS 8 you need Speed Doubler 8 (and a minor update for 8.1). Speed Doubler must always be kept up to date for compatibility.

I just upgraded to Word 6.01, and it is unbearably slow on my Mac Quadra.

Word 6.01 is generally considered to be a dog running on non-Power Macs. Microsoft promised that Mac Office 98 would be great, and we like it a lot, but it only runs on PowerPCs. Microsoft has a free translator to allow Word 5.1 to open Word 6 and Word 98 files. Word 6 and Word 98 allow you to save files in Word 5.1 format.

Should I get an accelerator for my current Mac, or buy a new one?

If you are using the Mac in a business, it usually makes sense to plan on it lasting two to three years for graphics and power intensive uses, and three to five years for word processing and simple database work. Again, if your old software is good enough, stick to it. But rather than sinking \$6,000 into upgrades to an old Mac over four years, it might make more sense to buy a new Mac for \$2,500 every two years. Remember that computer prices are constantly dropping (or performance is increasing for the same cost). Newer computers tend to be more reliable and have fewer problems than older Macs (and come with a one-year warranty, saving one year of potential repair costs).

The downside of replacing your computer instead of upgrading is that you may lose most of your investment in RAM and expansion cards, since the latest Power Macs use a different type of RAM and a faster,

better PCI bus instead of the old nuBus.

G3 Processor upgrades can be very cost-effective for PCI Power Macs like the 7500 to 9600. We’re not so sure that upgrades for 6100, 7100 and 8100s are as cost effective, but they will definitely give you a huge performance boost. I’m writing this on my favorite PowerBook, the 4.4 pound 2400c, and I’m eager to add a G3 upgrade real soon now.

What do think about the iMac?

The iMac is a great home machine, a great college dorm machine, and a great office workstation for word processing, database, internet, web browsing, etc. If you are seriously into graphics or audio or video, you need a more expandable machine like a G3 Desktop 266 or greater.

I keep getting “Coprocessor not installed” messages on my Power Mac. I thought that it had an FPU (floating point unit coprocessor)?

The PowerPC chip includes an FPU that is very fast on native PowerPC software. But the 68040 emulator actually emulates a 68LC040 without an FPU, so older software can bring up this message. You can install the shareware “SoftwareFPU” extension to fool your old 68040 programs into thinking that there is an FPU, but it will be very slow. (The PowerPC-native version of SoftwareFPU is only available when you register the software; the version distributed online and at Tekserve is the 680x0 version, which runs slowly on Power Macs.) Also, try “zapping the PRAM.”

Why do I keep getting Type 11 errors on my Power Mac?

Because you haven’t upgraded to System 7.6.1 or OS 8, which eliminate most Type 11 errors (in some cases they just gives more accurate error messages, but only the program you’re running crashes, not the whole Mac, so you can save your work and reboot safely).

I bought a Power Mac, but it won't run IBM (DOS, Windows) programs!?

Although IBM developed the PowerPC chip with Motorola and Apple, it doesn't automatically run DOS or Windows programs. Virtual PC 2.0 or SoftWindows let you do this, but they're fairly slow, so best for occasional use. If you must frequently run Mac and Windows or DOS programs, consider adding a Pentium processor card to your Mac (and then for more money you can add real PC type parallel and serial ports).

COMMUNICATIONS & THE INTERNET

What is Open Transport and do I need it?

Open Transport is Apple's networking software for AppleTalk and Internet (TCP/IP) connectivity. Versions 1.1.1 and above are quite stable. Open Transport is included in System 7.6 and up, and can also be used with System 7.1 and up. We really like Apple's Open Transport PPP (OT/PPP) which makes Internet connections very easy to set up. Some people prefer FreePPP instead. You can install both and choose between them in the TCP/IP control panel (OT/PPP shows up as "PPP," FreePPP shows up as "MacPPP")

How do I save my Internet settings or switch among different service providers?

Apple's TCP/IP and PPP control panels both have a "Configurations..." item under the file menu. Once you have your Internet stuff setup, go to each of these control panels and export your current settings. You can also name and save configurations for several different Internet setups (one at home, one at the office, one on the road) and use the Configurations menu (or Apple's Location Manager) to easily switch among them.

Why did my MacTCP control panel disappear or become invisible?

When Open Transport is active, the Network and MacTCP control panels are

disabled and made invisible. You use the TCP/IP and AppleTalk control panels instead. You may be able to use the "Network Software Selector" to switch to "Classic" networking, in which case those are hidden and the others revealed. We prefer Open Transport, and it's the only choice if you are running System 7.6 or later.

What's a good online service?

Too big a question. At Tekserve we have a web page at <http://www.tekserve.com> and we use the NYMUG BBS, Compuserve, AOL (America Online), the Well, usenet news groups on the internet (accessed through panix.com and via ISDN through angel.net), and a few more. Local BBSSes such as NYMUG are much cheaper (\$20-50 a year), major national services such as AOL and Compuserve have much more depth but cost \$10-30 a month, depending on usage. If you just want a quick email address, America Online is the easiest to setup, but their service is average and slows down at peak times of day.

If you will be accessing the internet a lot you may prefer an account with a local internet service provider such as panix.com or tuna.net (and definitely try a cable modem if your cable TV company offers it). If you need Internet access while you travel, consider one of the larger national service providers like AT&T or Earthlink (or America Online). CompuServe is reported to have the most international access points.

What's your favorite Macintosh site on the web?

Ric Ford's Macintosh home page at www.macintosh.com, although he can sometimes be a little cantankerous. O'Grady's Power Page at www.ogradys.com is great for PowerBook information, and Ted Landau's MacFixit site (www.macfixit.com) is good for keeping up with Mac support and troubleshooting issues.

VIRUSES

I think I have a virus. What should I do?

Buy the latest version of Virex (our favorite) or Norton AntiVirus for Macintosh and get the latest update for the program you bought (updates are released online monthly, new shrink-wrapped boxes are usually many months old). Install the program, update it and run it. Disinfectant, our former recommendation, is no longer being updated, and there are a number of very distracting and damaging new viruses about.

Every five to thirty minutes my computer slows way down and there is a lot of disk activity. What's wrong?

It could be the Autostart worm virus. See the answer above.

OTHER QUESTIONS

I chose my Laser Printer in the Chooser, and it forgot my choice.

The Chooser is counterintuitive, because you can use it to make several simultaneous choices (printer, network drives, etc.). As a result, it doesn't display what's chosen. Once you select a specific printer, it will remain chosen until you select a different printer (unless your backup battery is dead, see below). To confirm what printer is chosen, select "Page Setup" from the file menu—at the top of the window that's displayed you'll see the name of your printer.

Early Epson Stylus printer software can cause the printer choice to be forgotten—update to a more recent version.

To choose a different Laser printer (or other AppleTalk printer) click on the appropriate driver icon on the left side (such as "LaserWriter" or "LaserWriter 8"). Sometimes you have to scroll down to see the correct icon. The specific LaserWriter you have chosen will show up on the right side

highlighted. If it's not highlighted, you need to click on the printer name on the right side to choose it. If you are using LaserWriter 8 or newer, there will be a little printer icon in front of the printer's name to show that you have already "Setup" for that printer. If not, after highlighting the printer click the "Setup" button to select options for that printer. Then close the Chooser with the close box in the upper left corner. If you have a LaserWriter IISC, choose "Personal LaserWriter SC" on the left side and don't look for anything in the right side of the Chooser (but this printer is not really compatible with System 8 and up). If you have a Personal LaserWriter LS, you can select "PLW 300".

The clock on my computer keeps going back to 1904, or 1956 or something.

This means that the backup battery on your computer's logic board needs replacement. We stock the batteries. In most flat-shaped Macs it is pretty easy to do it yourself, in the Classic and IICI/cx and tower Macs you should let a professional do it. If we sell you a battery we install it for free.

What should I do about the year 2000 problem I keep reading about?

The Mac has no year 2000 problem—since its inception it has properly handled dates through February 2040, and System 7.6 extends that through 29,940 A.D. A few poorly written applications may have trouble—to be safe you should enter dates beyond 1999 with all four digits for the year (enter 5/21/2003 rather than 5/21/03).

My mouse suddenly got slow. What now?

The Apple Mouse II has a different ratio than older Mac mice, and when the computer starts up it checks the mouse and adjusts accordingly. Some software seems to confuse it, and it "forgets" that a new mouse is connected. You can either restart the computer or use the shareware "Reset ADB"

program to remind the computer which mouse it is dealing with. If you unplug and replug a mouse while the computer is on, you may have the same sluggishness (and on older Macs can cause hardware damage).

Why can't I eject this disk or CD-ROM?

The CD-ROM eject button on the front of newer Macs only works to open the tray when there is no CD-ROM in it. If there is already a CD in the drive, you eject it by dragging the CD icon to the trash or highlighting it and selecting put away (⌘-Y) from the File menu. If the computer is shared or the CD was already inserted when File Sharing was enabled, and you are running a System before 7.5.1, you won't be able to eject it unless you turn off file sharing.

Why can't I rename this disk?

If file sharing is enabled you won't be able to rename disks. Turn off file sharing. If that doesn't solve it, run Apple's Disk First Aid.

I got an error-XXX. What does it mean?

Frequently your Mac has gone through so many gyrations before it put up the error message that it may not be helpful at all. But the shareware "System Errors" or "Apple Error Codes" desk accessories can help answer the question. For instance, -34 means your disk is full. Bus Error and Type 11 errors can be almost anything.

How do I save a file on a disk that a DOS computer can read, or read a DOS disk on the Mac?

With System 7.1 and down, the Apple File Exchange program is included and will let you copy files to and from DOS floppy disks.

System 7.5 and above make this easier by including Apple's PC Exchange control panel. This allows the Finder to recognize and mount (and even format) DOS and Windows disks. For full compatibility, it's best to format interchange disks as PC disks on the Mac

rather than on a PC.

To actually use Mac files on a PC, or PC files on a Mac, you need a compatible application (like similar Mac and PC versions of WordPerfect or Excel) or else a file translator. Many Claris and Microsoft programs come with limited built-in translators, but MacLink Plus is a good universal translator (it's bundled free with some Macs and some System 7.5 upgrades). Microsoft Office 98 on the Mac is file compatible with Microsoft Office 97 for Windows.

How do I clean my screen?

Never spray anything onto the screen. Spray a little Windex onto a lint free cloth and use it to wipe the screen clean. Don't drip Windex down into the screen bezel. Don't use scratchy paper towels. My partner Dick thinks that "Kleer Screen" is the greatest, so we sell it.

I have a Wintel machine. What's Tekserve's equivalent on the dark side?

For the last six years we've asked people to let us know when they find a good service shop for Windows machines. Only one person has ever called us back (we referred the next two callers to that place, one was pleased and one thought the place was dreadful). Either there is no such place, or Wintel users are inconsiderate folks who think everyone else should have as much trouble as they do. If you find a great place to service Wintel stuff, please let us know.

Why didn't you answer my most important question?

Sorry, we ran out of room. Please email help@tekserve.com and we'll try to help. If you notice any errors in this FAQ, please send us a note by mail or email. Thanks!

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